

In the Claims:

Below is a marked up version of the claims as required under rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(ii).

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub,  
below a fill line of a tub;

said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;

said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;

said input orifice having a ~~vertically oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;

a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port,

thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the

underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter;

wherein the input orifice further comprises a rectangular shape, and the housing further

comprises a radiused semi-cylindrical shape with a forward sloping bottom to

provide insertability into a rectangular opening in a tub wall and a complete

drainage of water from the housing when the tub is empty; and

wherein the faceplate further comprises a plurality of holes including drainage holes  
along a bottom peripheral edge.

24. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a

tub, below a fill line of the tub;

said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;

said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;

said input orifice having a ~~vertically oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;

a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port, thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter; and wherein the faceplate further comprises a plurality of flow through holes including drainage holes along a bottom edge thereof.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the faceplate further comprises a peripheral ledge sized for an overlapped fit around the mounting surface of the housing, and a mounting magnet.

26. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub, below a fill line of the tub;  
said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;  
said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;  
said input orifice having a ~~vertically oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;  
a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port, thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter; and wherein the faceplate further comprises a plurality of structural fins on a back side thereof, said fins sized to fit into a set of receiving slots in the housing, thereby providing a resistance to breakage of the faceplate.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the faceplate further comprises a peripheral ledge to overlap the mounting surface of the housing.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the faceplate further comprises a mounting magnet having a location opposite a housing receiver, thereby providing a pop off mount for the faceplate.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the housing receiver further comprises a magnet.

30. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

- a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub, below a fill line of the tub;
- said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;
- said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;
- said input orifice having a ~~vertically-oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;
- a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port, thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter; and
- wherein the removable filter further comprises an internal core, said core having a plurality of holes with ascending size away from the output orifice to provide for an efficient flow of water through a surrounding filter.

Claims 31-35 (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

- a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub, below a fill line of the tub;
- said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;
- said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;
- said input orifice having a ~~vertically-oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;

a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port, thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter; wherein the housing comprises a ~~pop-off~~ connection for the removable filter from the connection to the outlet port; wherein the ~~pop-off~~ connection further comprises an inward cant to an outlet sidewall of the housing, said outlet sidewall containing the outlet port; and wherein the outlet port further comprises a safety/sanitation port having a connection to ambient air, said connection ending at a location above a water line of the tub, wherein the operation of the recirculation system without the removable filter allows the ambient air into the recirculation system, thereby causing a cavitation.

37. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub, below a fill line of the tub;  
said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;  
said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;  
said input orifice having a ~~vertically-oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;  
a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port, thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter; and wherein the faceplate further comprises a radiating slot pattern from a central point of the faceplate.

Claims 38-49 (canceled)

50. (previously presented) A combination water filter and suction device for a whirlpool bath, the device comprising:

housing means functioning to support a removable filter means and provide an inlet opening contiguous with an inner surface of the whirlpool bath;  
faceplate means functioning to cover the inlet opening and prevent body entrapment, prevent hair entrapment, and prevent accidental breakage thereof; and

wherein the housing further comprises an outlet port having a safety/sanitation port means functioning to create cavitation if the whirlpool bath is operated without the removable filter means.

Claims 51-63 (canceled)

64. (Cancel)

65. (currently amended) A combination water filter and suction device for a tub recirculation system, said suction/filter comprising:

a housing having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub, below a fill line of the tub;

said housing having an input orifice contiguous with the inside of the tub;

said housing having an outlet port located behind the mounting surface;

said input orifice having a ~~vertically oriented~~ ventilated faceplate;

a removable filter mounted inside the housing having a connection to the outlet port, thereby providing a suction device to intake all the water in the tub from the underwater and to continuously filter said water with a replaceable filter; and

wherein the faceplate further comprises a plurality of holes including drainage holes along a bottom peripheral edge, thereby enabling a complete drainage of the housing after each use.

66. (Cancel)

67. (Cancel)

68. (Cancel)

69. (Cancel)